

Message Text

SECRET

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 217766

NODIS

CHEROKEE FOR LOW

FOLLOWING REPEAT DAR ES SALAAM 3671, ACTION SECSTATE 26 AUG:

QUOTE S E C R E T DAR ES SALAAM 3671

NODIS CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE ONLY.

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK, TZ

SUBJECT: RHODEISA: SECRET NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 217680

1. SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO TANZANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, POSSIBILITY OF A SMITH-NKOMO/MUGABE MEETING WILL NOW TURN ON DELIBERATIONS OF A FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS' MEETING TENTATIVELY PLANNED FOR WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER 2-3. END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER COMPLETING DISCUSSION OF ZAMBIAN CALL FOR AN AUGUST SECRET

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26 SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING (REPORTED SEPTTEL), FOREIGN MINISTER MKAPA AND I (ALONE) COMPARED NOTES ON EVENTS OF THE LAST WEEK CONCERNING THE SECRET NIGERIAN-BRITISH INITIATIVE ON RHODESIA.

3. THE DISCUSSION HAD ITS HILARIOUS MOMENTS, E.G., MKAPA'S DESCRIPTION OF AN URGENT MESSAGE TO HIM FROM NYERERE AS HIS

AIRPLANE WAS ABOUT TO TAKE OFF FROM DAR ES SALAAM LAST TUESDAY, SAYING "FOR GOD'S SAKE. BE MORE CAREFUL THAN EVER. THE AMERICANS DON'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT THIS DAMM THING."

4. SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST TO YOU IN CONTEXT OF REFTEL ARE: (A) MKAPA STOPPED FIRST IN LUSAKA TO GET KAUNDA'S AGREEMENT TO NYERERE'S INSISTENCE ON FULLY AGREED PF POSITION BEFORE MEETING, (B) NKOMO, FOR REASONS UNKNOWN TO ALL, NEVER WENT TO MAPUTO TO MEET WITH MUGABE TO GET AGREED POSITION AS HE HAD PROMISED, (C) A STILL RELUCTANT AND UNHAPPY MUGABE IS ARRIVING IN DAR ES SALAAM THIS WEEKEND TO GO OVER IDEA WITH NYERERE PERSONALLY, (D) MKAPA DOES NOT RATE VERY HIGHLY CHANCES OF MUGABE AND NKOMO MEETING AND WORKING OUT AGREED POSITION THIS WEEK, SO (E) NYERERE IS AIMING AT FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS' MEETING NEXT WEEKEND EITHER TO CONSIDER WHAT PF HAS WORKED OUT OR TO DO THE JOB FOR THE PF; (F) TANZANIANS ARE STILL SOMEWHAT DOUBTFUL THAT SMITH-NKOMO/MUGABE MEETING WILL ACTUALLY TAKE PLACE.

5. IN OTHERWISE UNSURPRISING DISCUSSION OF WHAT MIGHT BE DONE AT ALL PARTIES CONFERENCE AND OF HOW THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN MIGHT NOW BE BEST UTILIZED, MKAPA SAID HE HAD ALMOST CONCLUDED THAT SMITH HATED THE BRITISH SO MUCH THAT HE WOULD, CONTRARY TO OUR EARLIER ESTIMATES, TURN OVER MORE TO THE PF THAN HE WOULD TO THE BRITISH DIRECTLY. INsofar AS THAT IS TRUE AND IF SECRET MEETING ACTUALLY COMES OFF CONSTRUCTIVELY, LESS ATTENTION
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WOULD NEED TO BE GIVEN TO THE TRANSITION PERIOD AT AN ALL PARTIES CONFERENCE; PERHAPS AGREEMENT ON THE COMPOSITION OF FORCES, TAKING OFF FROM LORD CARVER'S PLAN, WOULD BE ENOUGH.

6. INCIDENTALLY, A SMALL BUT POTENTIALLY IMPORTANT GLOSS ON PARA 7 REFTEL: THAT LANGUAGE SAYS SIMPLY NYERERE IS ENCOURAGING MUGABE TO JOIN IN THE TALKS AND TO DEVELOP A UNITED PF POSITION. IN FACT, WHAT NYERERE IS ENCOURAGING IS THE DEVELOPMENT OF A UNITED PF POSITION AND THAT THERE BE NO TALKS UNLESS THAT IS
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DONE. SPAIN UNQUOTE. CHRISTOPHER

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